continue to enjoy the role of predominant fibre, it has also been considered necessary to reduce fiscal levies on man-made fibres/yarn in such a manner that benefit flows to the consumer in the form of lower prices of synthetics and blended fabrics. The fiscal package that I am going to announce represents the first instalment of the reforms proposed to be carried out in the indirect tax structure and covers the steps which I thought could be taken at this stage without waiting for the next Budget.

Government have been consistently encouraging the production of blended fabrics with certain proportion of polyester fibre through progressive reduction of duties on blended yarns and fabrics following the 1981 Textile Policy Statement. Having regard to the broad objective of making cloth of acceptable quality available at low prices, as a measure of further relief in this area, I propose to reduce the excise duty on polyester fibre from Rs. 45 to Rs. 25 per Kg. I also propose to reduce the excise duty on polyester cotton blended yarns containing more than 40% but less than 70% by weight of polyester fibre from Rs. 5 to Rs. 2 per Kg. On similar blends of polyester viscose blended yarn, the duty is proposed to be reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 4 per Kg. As regards polyester cotton blended fabrics, a concessional rate of 2% is already available. However, concessional rates are not available for polyester viscose blended fabrics. I propose to reduce the excise duty on polyester viscose blended fabrics with certain polyester content to 5% *ad valorem* from existing rates, which vary upto a maximum of 13.2%. However, to ensure that the benefits of reduction of duty go mainly to cheaper fabrics, I propose to increase the incidence of duty on cotton and man-made fabrics, of assessable value exceeding Rs. 25 per square metre, containing polyester fibre, by Rs. 2 per square metre. The increase is being effected mainly through increase in the component of additional duty in lieu of sales tax so that the interests of the States are protected. The reduction in the duties for low prices fabrics are expected to bring down retail prices by about 10 to 15%.

A scheme for larger production of low priced blended fabrics is also being formulated for which polyester fibre would be made available without payment of excise duty or additional (Countervailing) duty of customs which at present is Rs. 45 per Kg. subject to production and supply of such low priced fabrics as per programme approved by the Department of Textiles. Such a programme has been worked out by the Department of Textiles for the units of the N. T. C.

Acrylic fibre has become quite popular and has been supplementing the production of raw wool. As a measure of relief to this ndustry, I propose to reduce the excise duty on acrylic fibre from Rs. 17.50 to Rs. 10.00 per Kg.

These proposals are estimated to result in a revenue loss of about Rs. 131 crores in a full year and about Rs. 77 crores for the rest of the year 1985-86. So for this yea the loss is only Rs. 77 crores.

Notifications giving effect to the above proposals are being laid on the Table of the House.

The fiscal package has been formulated with the objective of increasing the availability of such reasonably priced fabrics to the consumers. It is proposed to carry out a review after some time whether this objective has been subserved on which will depend the continuation of this scheme.

II. Re. steps taken by the Government to achieve the objectives of New Textile Policy

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE) : Now the honourable Minister of State for Supply and Textiles will also make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : Madam Vice-Chairman, the main objective of the new Textile Policy, 1985, is to "increase the production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices to meet the clothing requirements of a growing population". For achieving this objective there is a provision in the policy which, *Inter alia*, states that "adequate availability of man-made fibres and yarn at reasonable prices shall be ensured" and that "fiscal levies on man-made fibres/yarn shall be progressively reduced in such a manner as to facilitate absorption of increased domestic production so that the benefit flows to the consumer in the form of lower prices of synthetic and blended fabrics".

My esteemed colleague, the Finance Minister, has just now announced specific duty relief measures with a view to achieving the above objectives. The duty relief has been extended to polyester fibre, polyester cotton, blended yarn, polyester viscose blended yarn, polyester viscose blended fabrics for increasing consumption of blended fabrics and also to acrylic fibre for supplementing the availability of raw wool in the country for use in Knitwear and Hosiery articles. I would like to make it absolutely clear that the intention of the Government is not to bring down the prices of the higher priced fabrics. In order to minimise the loss of revenue, the excise duty on higher value fabrics is being increased by Rs. 2/- per sq. metre, if the value exceeds Rs. 25/- per sq. metre.

We have placed greater emphasis on bringing down the cost of blends desired widely by the common man. Thus the present demand for blended shirting material of medium price range is 134 million metres per annum with a substantial growth potential. In order to achieve this objective, the Government has pleasure in announcing the launching of a new programme, viz., "Approved Programme for Production and Suppl of Low Priced Blends". Under this programme, the National Textile Corporation, alongwith such other organisations, as may be admitted to participate in this programme, from time to time, will arrange production and sale of blends at prices fully reflecting the reduction of duties. The N.T.C. has immediate plans to increase the production of blended shirting and trousers from the present level of 24 million metres to 80 million metres. Out of this, 8 million metres would constitute controlled cloth under the existing scheme, 8 million metres to DGS & D and Public Sector Undertakings and balance 64 million metres to the open market. The N.T.C. will make all efforts, under the approved programme to bring down the retail price range around Rs. 20.00 per sq. metre for shirting and maintain that of heavier cloth around Rs. 40.00 per sq. metre for trousers. The programme is basically designed to impart a price discipline over the market and ensure that the duty relief is actually passed on to the consumers in full.

The industry has a great responsibility cast on them when Government is making a revenue sacrifice. The Govt. hopes that the industry would respond suitably by increasing production of medium priced fabrics and will pass on the benefit to the consumers. The Government will watch the pricing of such fabrics and may take further measures, if considered necessary, to ensure that the duty relief is passed on to the consumers by the industry.

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव (बिहार): इस वक्तव्य पर स्पष्टीकरण, महोदया, किससे पूछूं, वित्त मंत्री जी से या वस्त्र मंत्री जी से ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कनक मुखर्जी) : जो प्रश्न आप वित्त मंत्री से पूछेंगे उनका जवाब वे देंगे, जो प्रश्न वस्त्र मंत्री से पूछेंगे उनका जवाब वे देंगे। आप चेयर के जरिए अपने प्रश्न करिए।

श्री हुकमदेव नारायण यादव: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि मानव निर्मित सूत पर जितना जोर दिया जाएगा उतना कपास निर्मित वस्त्रों पर जोर कम होगा और उससे कपास का उत्पादन कम होगा और कपास का उत्पादन गिरने से किसानों के ऊपर बुरा असर पड़ेगा तो क्या सरकार इसकी भी व्यवस्था करेगी कि कपास का उत्पादन भी देश में कम न हो और कपास उत्पादन करने वाले जो किसान हैं उनको भी इन नीतियों के चलते कोई नुकसान न हो?

नम्बर दो, मंत्री जी ने जो बयान दिया है, मैं दिल्ली की बात नहीं करता लेकिन अगर मैं वाहवाही की भाषा बोलना चाहूं तो बोल सकता हूं लेकिन मैं सरकार को सही जानकारी देना चाहता हूं। हमारे युवा प्रधान मंत्री जी आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में जाकर उन को देखते हैं और इसलिये उन को पता लगा होगा कि उन गांवों में बसने वाले सौ में से 60,70 लोग ऐसे हैं जिनको मोटे से मोटा कपड़ा कम से कम कीमत पर उपलब्ध कराया जाना चाहिए जिस से वे अपना तन ढक सकें। उन के लिये वस्त्र कोई शौक की चीज नहीं है, वस्त्र उन के लिये तन ढकने की आवश्यकता की चीज है। किसी प्रकार का कपड़ा उन को मिलना चाहिए ताकि वे अपनी लज्जा बचा सके। तो ऐसे लोगों के लिये जो मानव निर्मित सूत के जरिये कपड़े का आप निर्माण करेंगे उस में उनको प्राथमिकता कैसे देंगे? क्या भारत सरकार ऐसे कपड़े का निर्माण करेगी कि जिससे उन गरीबों का तन ढक सके और जो आज अपने तन को ढकने में अक्षम और असमर्थ है?

तीसरी बात मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो आप यह छूट दे रहे हैं इस का लाभ बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति लेंगे। आप सूत मंगायेंगे और उन को देंगे। वह उस से कपड़े बनायेंगे और वे ही बेचेंगे। आप के पास उस कपड़े की कीमत निर्धारित करने की कोई मशीनरी नहीं है। जो वह चाहेंगे वह उस की कीमत रखेंगे और जो हाथ से करघा चलाने वाले बुनकर हैं जो करोड़ों वर्ष से भारत की संस्कृति को बचाकर रखे हैं उन गरीब बुनकरों को यह कैसे मिलेगा। उन के पास पूंजी नहीं है, उन के पास पैसा नहीं है। तो क्या आप ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे कि उन गरीब बुनकरों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा यह सूत दिया जाये। पैसा उन के पास न हो तो कार्पोरेशन के जरिये दिया जाये और कपड़ा बनवाया जाये और इस प्रकार से उन बेचारों की रोजी रोटी की समस्या को हल किया जाय।

और अंतिम प्रश्न यह है कि जो आप सूत मंगा रहे हैं वह बड़े-बड़े व्यापारियों और पूंजीपतियों को न मिले क्या इसके लिये वस्त्र मंत्री जी वित्त मंत्री जी का सहारा ले कर इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करेंगे कि जो राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम है वह इस सारे मानव निर्मित सूत से कपड़े तैयार करें और वह सौ फीसदी सरकारी क्षेत्र में ही तैयार किया जाये जिस से आप का, सरकार का उस माल पर नियंत्रण हो और उस की कीमत पर भी नियंत्रण हो और हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को वे वस्त्र मिल सकें। इसलिये क्या सौ फीसदी मानव निर्मित सूत से कपड़ा सरकारी क्षेत्र में आप बनायेंगे और जो आप की मरी हुई मिलें हैं, वित्त मंत्री जी के सहयोग से, उन की कृपा से उनको चलाया जाए और उन मिलों को आधुनिक बना कर उन मिलों में कपड़ा बनवाया जाये और देश के आम लोगों को सस्ते दर पर वह कपड़ा दिया जायेगा।

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana) : Madam, the first question which I want to ask the hon. Finance Minister is when, by what time, the cloth which will be produced as a result of the concessional duty on the fibre, will be available to the consumer and whether any arrangement has been made to

[Shri Sushil Chand Mohunta]

see that during this intervening period when it is expected to be given to the consumer, the mill-owners will not taken benefit of this concessional rate and yet supply the material at an enhanced rate. There should be a very big check in the transition period This is one question.

The other question, Madam, is that this blended cloth made out of blended fibre, is sold at very cheap rates in foreign countries, the countries which have started developing after us, which came into existence, I would say, after we attained our independence in 1947. For instance, I can quote the example of Japan. Japan was totally destroyed in the Second World War but it very quickly started industrialisation and started producing this type of fibre and cloth. Secondly, South Korea. They are producing lot of cloth made with this blended fibre, polyester fibre and the cloth which is sold in those countries is very cheap. You can get a good bush shirt or good trouser at very reasonable rates – at the rate of Rs. 15, or Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 for which you would be paying near about or even more than Rs. 100 for the same type of bush shirt made from probably the same fibre here. Can you ensure that our country at one point of time will be able to come in very close competition with those countries to the extent if not relating to its export price, at least to the extent that it is being consumed in this country by the ordinary man so that people will stop looking at cloth manufactured in foreign countries ? The only attraction of the imported cloth is that it is much cheaper than the Indian cloth. Will it ever be possible for us, with these concessions, to compete with those countries and supply to our consumers cloth at such cheap rates as is being supplied, manufactured and sold in those countries which acquired freedom, which came into existence, I would say, in a way, after we became independent in 1947. These are my two questions and I hope the Finance Minister would reply to them and I welcome the concessions which are given. It will go a long way in helping the poor people and middle class people in buying cloth at a cheaper rate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN(SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Please ask short and precise questions without wasting any time.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, अभी बनावटी सूत से बना हुआ कपड़ा देश के अन्दर जितना बनता है वह कुल कपड़े का केवल 30 परसेंट है और 70 परसेंट कपड़े काटन से बनते है। सरकार की जो नई नीति है, इसके बाद यह जो अनुपात है, 70 : 30 का, इसमें क्या परिवर्तन होगा और कितना कपड़ा सिंथेटिक फाइबर से बनेगा और कितना कपड़ा कपास से तैयार किया जाएगा।

दूसरी बात यह है कि अभी देश के अंदर लांग स्टैपल काटन अधिक है। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार इस साल 5 लाख बैल्स लांग स्टैपल काटन ज्यादा है। सरकार ने इस साल महज 2 लाख या 3 लाख बैल्स काटन को एक्सपोर्ट करने की इजाजत दी है। इस साल 97 लाख बैल्स काटन का उत्पादन होगा। देश की काटन मिल्स में साढ़े सात लाख बैल्स की ही प्रतिमास खपत होगी जिसका अर्थ होगा की 84 लाख बैल्स की खपत होगी। लास्ट इयर का कैरी-ओवर भी अभी काफी है। इस प्रकार देश में काफी काटन बाकी रह जाएगा जिसका फल यह होगा कि किसानों की जो कपास की कीमत है उसमें गिरावट आएगी। किसानों की कपास की कीमत में गिरावट न आये, इसके लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

सरकार ने यह कहा है कि कपड़े की कीमत घटाने की दिशा में कदम उठाए गए यह स्वागत योग्य कदम है। लेकिन मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कपड़े की कीमत जो घटाई जाएगी उसके

वितरण की दिशा में सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं जिससे कि जो उपभोक्ता हैं, उनको घटी हुई दरों पर कपड़ा मिल सके ?

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, वस्त्र राष्ट्रीय नीति की घोषणा के समय में भी बुनकर का सवाल उठाया था और आज जब यह नीति घोषित हुई है तो मैं सीधा सरल शब्दों में कहना चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने हथकरघा वाले बुनकर के सिर पर मौत की घंटी बांध दी है। आप यह बताइये जबकि पहले ही महंगा यार्न है तो किस प्रकार से बाजार में ये बुनकर खरीद पायेंगे जबकि उनको जो यार्न अभी सप्लाई होता है यह उनको पूरा नहीं मिलता और न ही समय पर इसकी आपूर्ति होती है। यह जो घोषणा है मैं कह सकता हूं कि बड़े मिल वालों के लिये बड़े लोगों के लिए बड़े व्यापारियों के लिए है, न कि बुनकरों के लिए। राजा साहब जो वित्त मंत्री हो गये हैं, जो आपने सुविधाएं दी हैं, छूट दी हैं इससे लगता है कि सस्ता कपड़ा लोगों को उपलब्ध हो सकेगा लेकिन आज तक का इतिहास बताता है कि छूट से आज तक कोई कपड़ा सस्ता नहीं मिला। पहनने वालों को सस्ते दाम पर नही मिला। हमारे हुक्मदेव भाई ने बताया कि हम आज भी गांव में जाते हैं तो देखते हैं वहां लोगों के पास पहनने को वस्त्र नहीं होता। यहां तक कि महिलाओं के पास भी पहनने को वस्त्र नहीं होता। जिस-जिस वस्त्र को आप सस्ते दर पर बेचने की बात करते है कम से कम इस वस्त्र को सस्ता वहां पर उपलब्ध कराने का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इन गरीबों तक वस्त्र जाए। यह जो आपने छूट दी है यह साहित्यिक गरीबों पर पहुंचने वाला जरूर है, शहर में पहुंचने वाला जरूर है लेकिन गांव में, जंगलों में पहुंचने वाला नहीं है। इसके साथ ही वस्त्र नीति के सम्बन्ध में भी एक सवाल जानना चाहता हूं कि आपके कारखाने अभी भी घाटे में हैं और कितना घाटा उसको देना चाहते हैं, किस कीमत पर घाटा देना चाहते हैं, क्यों देना चाहते हैं ? सवाल यह है कि यह घाटा जो है अंततोगत्वा देश की जनता पर पड़ता है। जो असली मास है उनको हम सस्ते शब्द दे सकते है, सस्ता कानून दे सकते है और सस्ती छूट दे सकते हैं लेकिन सस्ता कपड़ा नहीं दे पाते। यह घाटा एन टी सी क्यों उठाये। अभी से घाटे में है और फिर और घाटा हो जाएगा। किस के लिए ? जो पालिस्टर यार्न है वह हमारे बुनकर तक कैसे पहुंचेगा। उस समय भी सवाल उठाया था और अब फिर उठाना चाहता हूं कि आप अपने रिजिम में बुनकर पर जो परेशानी कर रहे हैं मैं यह समझता हूं उनके लिए यह दूसरा प्रहार है। इस प्रहार में शायद वह अब बेमौत मर जाएगा और उसकी सुरक्षा आप भाषण से या अपने प्रवचन से नहीं कर सकेंगे। क्योंकि एक्शन में छूट हो नहीं सकती। यह तो सवाल है और अब दूसरा सवाल वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं। आप जो वस्त्र को सस्ता करना चाहते हैं पालिस्टर को, आज तक की जो कार्रवाई हुई है उस कार्रवाई से लोगों को सस्ता कुछ नही मिला है। लोगों तक यह सस्ता वस्त्र प्राप्त हो जाए इसकी क्या व्यवस्था आप करेंगे, वितरण की क्या व्यवस्था करेंगे जिससे यह उन तक पहुंच जाए क्योंकि वितरण की व्यवस्था जब तक सही नही होगी तब तक यह बड़े-बड़े लोग आपकी इस छूट का लाभ लेंगे, छूट का लाभ उन गरीब तक नहीं पहुंच सकेगा। इसलिये दो मुद्दे साफ किये जाने चाहिये। एक तो यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो आप काम करें, छूट दें वह एक्शन में हो, कार्य में हो जिससे उन, असली लोगों तक पहुंच सके ताकि आपकी नीति का लाभ उनको मिल सके अन्यथा इस नीति का लाभ जो बड़े-बड़े लोग हैं व्यापारी हैं, मिल-मालिक हैं वे लेंगे, वस्त्र बुनने वाले नही।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam Vice-Chairman, I will ask a simple question. In the statement of the Union Finance Minister, it has been expected that the reduction in duties for low-priced fabrics will bring down the retail prices by about 10 to 15 per cent. But our experience with the retails market is that the cloth, of the polyester fibre or whatever fibre which is available in the market, is priced taking into account the excise duty paid by the manufacturers. It

is supposed that the prices are fixed like that. But after reduction, to what extent will it reflect in the reduction in retail prices? What is the machinery by which the Government can ensure that the fabrics coming to the retail market after declaration of this reduction, will be available at the reduced prices? There is every possibility that the seller will say that the particular variety which he was selling was priced before the reduction was announced. Therefore, what is the machinery with the Union Government to ensure that it is reflected in the retails prices?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, as far as I remember, the textile policy mentioned that handloom sector would be producing cloth for the poor. If I am wrong, the Textile Minister will please correct me. It was decided that the handloom sector and perhaps the khadi sector also would be producing cloth for the poor. If that be so, why cannot the policy be tuned in that direction? Nowadays khadi sector can bring out polyester; handloom sector also started using polyester staple fibre. If the intention is to help the poor and if the policy of the Finance Minister is to be consistent with that of the Textile Minister, why should not this be restricted only to handloom sector and khadi sector? Secondly, will the Finance Minister promise before the House that in case the entire amount is not transmitted to the consumer, this will be withdrawn in course of a certain period?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Madam, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav had raised the question of the effect on cotton, the effect of these reductions, of this policy. So far as cotton is concerned, just now one honourable Member pleaded about export of cotton, that the international market is open for cotton. Many times we have to constrain exports and many times Members ask why we are not exporting. The availability of man-made fibre makes us a little independent and the possibility of exports is there. So cotton does not get affected.

[**The Vice-Chairman (Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal)** in the Chair]

Also yarn exports will be possible if a certain amount of man-made fibre is available to us. Long staple cotton is in surplus and there is a varietal imbalance. . . (*Interruption*) it can be used in various concessions, its use can be increased. Now, what do we understand by this ? Seventy-five per cent of our cotton area is in rainfed areas where assured irrigation is not there. Whenever there is drought or shortage of rainfall, the raw material cotton gets affected. So, while cotton will remain our primary fibre and a little more increase gets evened out, that weather-dependency is there for the whole textile availability . . . (*Interruption*) So, it is a mix.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Your long-staple and extra-long-staple and the fibre there from are used by the rich and we are surplus in that and not in the short-staple one which is used by the poor.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I am telling you what we should have which would replace it or be as a supplementary thing What I am telling is that we are no surplus in short and medium. Where fluctuations cause difficulties in availability, for meeting fluctuations in cotton or in man-made fibre which is not weather-dependent, a certain percentage will have to be made and this dependency will be reduced and this will supplement the medium-length fibre. So, I say that this is also in the desirable direction.

Cotton will be our principal fibre and this is going to continue. Here it is not that on the man-made fibre we are reducing. It is for the middle class and the lower-middle class which use the blended fabric and that is the thrust of the whole thing. Above Rs. 25/-, we are increasing the tax by Rs. 2/- per sq. metre, and Rs. 40 crores of tax I am taking on that. So, the real thrust of it is not for the richer. But now the blended fabric is being used by the middle class and the lower-middle class and they may be the beneficiaries and that is why the relief is given.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: It is a hope against hope.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Now, a pertinent question was asked as to whether the benefit will be passed on to the consumer.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri R. Ramakrishnan) in the Chair.]

That was also in our minds because it is not easy for the Finance Minister to agree to give up money. So, we then decided—in my statement it is already there that within six months we will review it—we would review whether at the consumer level, not at the wholesale level or the intermediary level, but at the consumer level, this benefit has been transmitted and that is the only rationale for such concessions and if this is not achieved, then the continuance of the policies will have to be looked into in greater depth and in greater detail. I have already made it clear in my statement and I think this answer the various issues that have been raised about the transmission of the benefits to the consumer and we are as much alive to it as the honourable Members.

Then, Sir, the other point that was mention ed was that the benefit would go to the middle class and to the rich. The statement makes it clear. Unless the benefit is passed on to the consumer, its continuance itself will have to be questioned. It is a very encouraging thing, not only the reduction of duties, but also the proposal that has been made. A proposal has been put forward by the Textiles Minister and, according to this, in the public sector, in the NTC, from 24 million metres he is going to raise it within this year to 80 million metres of cheaper variety of blended fabric. I think this is a very big commitment that he has made to the nation, to the people who buy cheaper cloth, more durable cloth, and I think it needs encouragement and support

As regards the handloom, a policy has already been announced that in five years the whole controlled cloth will be in the handloom sector. This is the concern of the Government. We have already enacted reservation for the handlooms. Then we have the institution for financing the development in handlooms, a natioal institution. So, these are all the positive steps that we are taking. And, Sir, as technology increases, the man-made or blended fabric can be used and some are already using in handloom and the benefit will pass on there and we snould encourage areas where more handlooms can be used. So far as the proportion of 80 per cent in cotton and 20 per cent in man-made or blended is concerned, I don't think it is going to be disturbed by this step. May be a little variation is there and it is because I have already stated that some dependency is there. But this concession is given to blends where cotton is used along with it. So fibre even in this is taken care of. It is not pure yarn; it is a blend with cotton and viscose also.

Now, Mr. Mohunta mentioned by what time Government will do it. Within six months we will review. He made a point that in Japan and South Korea, a very cheap cloth of man-made fibres and yarn is made, and by when we will be able to produce it in India. Now this is a very basic question. The constraint in it is not only of duties. Duties affect a certain portion. But problems are structural also—structural in industry, that is, the economy of scale. Now, in these countries the

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

are huge economics of scale in production of man-made fibres, yarn, etc. Our units are smaller. So the cost goes up high. We will have to take measures. If we are to be competitive, the technology will have to be developed and the scale will have to be developed. The Government is conscious of it as to how we can go ahead and effect structural changes to reduce costs.

I think Mr. Suraj Prasad raised a point about the percentage and about long-staple yarn. This I have answered. And what will be the distribution? We do not have any public distribution system for blended fabrics. But we will monitor the retail prices. As I said, in the review I will keep an eye on this.

Shri Jagdambi Prasadji Yadav asked, why are you loading the losses on the N.T.C. I think this will be a boon to the N.T.C. It will serve people also, and also they will make some better economic returns. It will be a boon to them and help them.

Then Dipen Ghoshji asked, by what time? I have answered that.

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee asked, why not these concessions to the handloom sector?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Why not restricted to it?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I don't think it will be advisable, because a very small proportion at this moment is used in handloom. If more and more of it is used, more benefit will automatically pass on to cheaper yarn. The weavers will also be benefited. We have to help them in that direction. And there are other consumers. Certainly this is not the whole policy we have come up with. It is one portion of the textile policy. So it is confined to that.

I think I have answered most of the points.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव: डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का कौन सा सिस्टम है जो बुनकरों तक पहुंचेगा ।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : नहीं पहुंचेगा तो हम कोई मजबूर नहीं है कि हम उनको देते रहें, यह बात भी सही है ।

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: We supply to the handloom sector.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We will go into the handloom policy then.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The Finance Minister has already clarified some of the points raised by hon. Members. I would not repeat them. But I would like to explain to the hon. Members what is the crux of the situation. The real issue is how the benefit of these reliefs is going to be passed on to the consumers; that is the real issue. And I would like to make it clear, although it is clear in my statement, that we are using the instrument of the National Textile Corporation which is going to intervene in the market in a major way, in an effective way. I have explained in my statement that the present production of these fabrics is of the order of 134 million metres. Out of these 80 million metres sought to be produced by the N.T.C. ....

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : by when ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : This is the real trouble. The Finance Minister has just now explained that it will be this year.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : You have not said that in your statement.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : I need not repeat what the Finance Minister has said. It does not require my endorsement to make it authentic. He has explained that it would be done this year. You can well imagine that ont of 134 million metres, if the N.T.C. is producing 80 million

metres and selling it at a low price, what the effect will be. The balance of it will be produced by the private millowners. Now, can they resist the reduction in price? More than half will be produced by the N.T.C. and sold at a lower price. The entire market of polyester fabric is bound to come down to that level.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL (Maharashtra) : In practice, market force works.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : I am not aware of your practices. I am telling you of what we want to practise. To request what I have said and to add to what I have explained just now, I would say that the Government will watch the situation and may take further measures. I would not like to reveal everything about what we want to do in this regard. But I can tell you that this is our prime concern and we shall take every measure to see that the benefit is passed on to the consumer and every possible measure is taken to make the reduction in prices effective and cheaper polyester fabrics are available to the lower middle-class people of this country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHANAN) : Now, we shall continue with the discussion on R.P.F. (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

THE RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985—contd.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फोर्स (अमेंडमेंट) बिल, 1985 के समर्थन में बोलने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं।

आज की इस निर्णायक घड़ी में जब कि "तेजी से विकास" हमारा संकल्प है, श्रद्धेय राजीव जी के मार्गदर्शन में माननीय रेल मंत्री श्री बंसी लाल जी एवं श्री सिंधिया जी ने रेल विभाग को नया आयाम दिया है और एक बेहतर परिवहन सेवा के रूप में भारतीय रेल का पहिया गतिमान है।

भारतीय रेल विश्व में दूसरा एवं एशिया में सब से बड़ा रेल तंत्र है। एक दिन में लगभग 20 मिलियन यात्री तथा एक वर्ष में 263 मिलियन टन माल यातायात का इसे श्रेय है जो कि विश्व में एक रेकार्ड है।

किसी भी देश की सोशल रीजनल, एकोनामिक एण्ड इण्डस्ट्रियल डेवेलपमेंट में रेलवे की एक महती भूमिका होती है और एक बेहतर सेवा देने के लिए हमारे रेल मंत्री जी वचनबद्ध हैं।

जनवरी 1985 से रेलों में चौतरफा सुधार के लिये एक विशेष योजना तैयार की गई थी और उस पर त्वरित कार्यवाही भी प्रारम्भ कर दी गई। उसके उचित परिणाम भी प्राप्त हुए हैं। रेलवे की पूरी आय जनवरी–मार्च 1984 में 1327.50 करोड़ थी जो 1985 जनवरी–मार्च में 1416 करोड़ हो गई है तथा रेल तंत्र में प्रति यूनिट माल डिब्बा, कुल परिवहन में वृद्धि हुई है।

जनता की आशंकाओं की पूर्ति के लिए तथा प्रक्षेपित वृद्धि को पूरा करने के लिए भारतीय रेलों को संसाधन मिलना अत्यंत आवश्यक है ताकि वह स्वयं को सम्पूर्ण आवश्यकता से सुसज्जित कर एक बेहतर जनसेवा के लिए उपलब्ध हो सके। निष्पादन और कुशलता संकेतों में उल्लेखनीय सुधारों के बावजूद भी यात्री और माल टर्मिनल दोनों में बहुत अधिक यांत्रिकरण की आवश्यकता है ताकि यात्रियों और माल यातायात को संभालने की कुशलता में वृद्धि हो सके।

रेलों के बेहतर कार्य निष्पादन की चार बुनियादी बातें हैं :—

1—संरक्षा,

2—माल संचालन,

3—समय पालन, और

4—ग्राहक संतुष्टि।